

Message Text

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ACTION INR-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-25 NEA-10 ISO-00 CIAE-00 NSAE-00 RSC-01

ORM-03 SR-02 VO-03 SCA-01 INSE-00 IO-14 PRS-01 DRC-01

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R 091126Z JAN 74

FM AMEMBASSY BUCHAREST

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 7372

INFO AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV

AMEMBASSY VIENNA

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE BUCHAREST 0067

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR, RO, IS

SUBJECT: JEWISH EMIGRATION FROM ROMANIA

REF: STATE 002760

1. ISRAELI AMBASSADOR COHEN SAYS HALT OF SOVIET JEWISH IMMIGRATION THROUGH ROMANIA CONTINUES NOR IS THERE ANY SIGN FROM ROMANIAN AUTHORITIES AS TO WHEN OR IF THIS BAN MAY BE LIFTED.
2. IMMIGRATION OF ROMANIAN JEWS TO ISRAEL REMAINS UNCHANGED; THAT IS AT SAME SLOW, "UNSATISFACTORY" RATE AS IN PAST. ALTHOUGH NO FIGURES GIVEN BY SOURCE, RATE WAS SAID NOT TO HAVE DECLINED AFTER ERUPTION OF ME WAR. NUMBER OF IMMIGRANTS TO ISRAEL FROM ROMANIA HAD JUMPED SOMEWHAT FOR TWO MONTHS LAST SUMMER BUT HAD THEN DECLINED TO USUAL SLOW PACE. COHEN TOOK PAINS IN THIS RESPECT TO REFUTE CEAUSESCU PRESS CONFERENCE ALLEGATIONS IN US THAT LITTLE PRESSURE TO EMIGRATE EXISTS AMONG REMAINDER OF ROMANIAN JEWISH COMMUNITY THAT HAS NOT HERETOFORE EMIGRATED.

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3. WE BELIEVE ABOVE STATEMENT TO BE ACCURATE AS FAR AS IT

GOES. JOURNALIST SERKOFF'S CLAIM THAT GOR HAS REFUSED TO HANDLE APPLICATIONS OF JEWS UNDER PENSION AGE DESCRIBES WHAT PROBABLY HAPPENS AND HAS BEEN HAPPENING ALL ALONG FOR MANY WOULD-BE EMIGRANTS--BUT IMPLICATION THAT "VIRTUAL STOP" HAS OCCURRED IS NOT TRUE. COHEN'S LAST STATEMENT THAT MANY MORE ROMANIAN JEWS WISH TO EMIGRATE THAN IS PERMITTED, OR WAS IMPLIED BY CEAUSESCU IN US, IS ALSO UNDOUBTEDLY TRUE, ALTHOUGH ISRAELIS MAY BE INCLINED TO PRESUME MORE PEOPLE WISH TO GO THAN IS ACTUALLY THE CASE. US JEWISH AGENCIES HAVE ESTIMATED 20,000 MORE WOULD LEAVE IF THEY COULD. AS DEPARTMENT IS AWARE, MORE THAN 300,000 OF THE 425,000 ROMANIAN JEWS REMAINING AFTER WORLD WAR TWO EMIGRATED AS TURNS OF GOR POLICY PERMITTED. THOSE REMAINING (PROBABLY NOW DOWN TO NEAR 80,000) INCLUDED LARGE PROPORTION OF OLDER PEOPLE WHO DESIRED TO STAY BUT ALSO YOUNGER GROUP WHO, FOR VARIOUS REASONS, DID NOT SEEK TO EMIGRATE OR WERE PREVENTED. ALTHOUGH PROPORTION OF THOSE DESIRING TO LEAVE--WHATEVER THEIR EARLIER INCLINATIONS--MAY HAVE RISEN, GOR LEADERSHIP PROBABLY HALF BELIEVES MYTH EXPRESSED BY CEAUSESCU IN US THAT NO JEWS REMAIN EXCEPT THOSE WHO PREVIOUSLY OPTED TO DO SO.

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